

“Mothball” Ship for Strait Run

A grimy, weather-beaten motor-ship, brought “out of mothballs,” arrived in Melbourne yesterday to be spruced up for the Bass Strait passenger service.

She is the 24-year-old, 2691-ton Moonta, which will relieve the 4297-ton Taroon for the next three months.

The Taroon will leave for Sydney early next week for an extensive classification survey.

The Moonta has been lying idle at Adelaide since February 3 last, after carrying thousands of tourists and holiday makers on Spencer and St. Vincent's Gulf trips for 23 years.

Her owners, Adelaide Steamship Co., decided she was no longer economic to run, and put her up for sale.

Her charter for the Bass Strait run may mean a reprieve from the breakers' yard.

Overhaul

She will go into dry dock tomorrow for a thorough overhaul. Stewards are already busy swabbing and polishing inside.

Then, restored somewhat to her former splendor, she will leave for her first trip to north-west Tasmania on Monday.

Her performance will be watched by shipping officials, for she has been mentioned as a possible permanent successor to the heavily subsidised (though four years newer) Taroon.

However, the Moonta carries only one-third as many passengers (126), first-class only, and has no refrigerated cargo space for the ice cream and fruit trade.

The Moonta had at least one pessimistic seaman when she paid off last February.

For yesterday, as seamen unscrewed a framed chart of her South Australian route from a deck wall, they found behind it a painted sign, “Farewell m.v. Moonta.”

The Egg & Egg Pulp Marketing Board

Egg Prices Operative Monday,
May 30, 1955, and Until Further Notice:—

Advance Wholesale
Prices to Selling
Producers Prices
(Per Doz.) (Per Doz.)

First Quality, Large	5/6	5/6
First Quality, Small	4/10	4/10
First Quality, Duck	5/	5/
Second Quality*	3/9	3/9

*Second Quality Eggs are for
Sale Only to Pastry Cooks.
Deductions.—Nil.